

TO THE HONOURABLE
THE
KNIGHTS, CITIZENS AND
BURGESSES OF THE COMMONS:
HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT:

The humble Petition of sundry Ministers intrusted to solicit the Petition and
Remonstrance formerly exhibited to this Honourable House, and of many
of their Brethren, most humbly sheweth,

Phat the Petitioners doe most thankfully value and heartily acknowledge the indefatigable paines and Piety of this Honourable Assembly, manifested in very
many things of high concernment for the glory of God, the honour of the King, the purging of the Church, and the safety and prosperity of this and the
rest of his Majesties Kingdomes; but more especially, in procuring that publique Fast at your first Sitting, which hath prevented many mischiefs, and drawne
downe many blessings upon the Kingdome ever since: In your zeale and courage for the true Religion professed among us against all Popish Idolatry and Su-
perstitious Innovations expressed by your noble and Religious Profession and Vow: In countenancing the Sacred Ordinance of Preaching after long and deepe
contempt cast upon it by too many who had almost exiled it from divers parts of this Kingdome: In encouraging painfull and godly Ministers formerly set aside, and now
againe profitably imployed in many Congregations greatly needing them: In discountenancing bold and unmeet men, that without sufficient Calling have presumptu-
ously intruded into that holy Office, as also of all unworthy and scandalous Ministers that have beene converted before you: In accepting a former Petition and Remonstrance
from the Petitioners, taking the same into your grave Consideration, and vigorously prosecuting some part thereof: In freeing divers godly Ministers out of Prison, and
exile, and many others from heavie Censures unjustly inflicted: In preventing the utter ruine of the Petitioners, and of many moe, by breaking that wicked Yoke or the
late pernicious Oath and Covenants justly branded by both Houses of Parliament, and by taking away the late dreadfull tyranny of the High Commission Court, and other ille-
gall and heavie pressures of the rest of the Courts Ecclesiasticall: In your worthy Orders for removing of all illegall Rites and Ceremonies, superstitious and scandalous
Images and Pictures, and other Innovations out of all Churches and Chappels: In your prudent, happy, and timely reuniting (without spilling of Christian bloud) of
the two Kingdomes of England and Scotland in a firme and religious Peace unhappily disturbed to the apparent endangering of both: In your honourable endeavours to re-
lieve and rescue our distressed brethren in Ireland from the barbarous outrages and butcheries of the Popish Rebels there: In your constant vigilancie to discover and defeate
the many desperate and divilish Conspiracies and Treasons against the King, Parliament, and the Kingdome, plotted by Papists and their malignant Adherents, implacable
Enemies to our Religion and Peace. Together with all other your excellent labours for reforming and settling the Affaires of the Common-wealth, whereof the Petitioners
doe also with others enjoy the comfort: and the large and blessed hopes given to the Petitioners of your further endeavours for perfecting the Reformation of Religion
and the Church according to the necessity thereof, in a way best becomming the Honour of such a Grave and Religious Body. All of which doe much encourage them
to powre out their soules in all possible thankfulnesse unto God for you, and to put up more fervent prayers, publickly, and privately, upon all occasions, on your behalfe,
at the Throne of Grace.

But so it is, that whereas the Petitioners did, in their former Petition represent unto you divers unsufferable grievances arising from sundry Invasions made upon the publicke
que Doctrine of this Church, from some mixtures and blenches in the publique Worship of God by Law established, as well as from sundry grosse Innovations & Superstitions
in Rites and Ceremonies without Law introduced, from many Exorbitances and unsupportable Usurpations in Ecclesiastical Government, and from the scandalous defect of
Ministers Maintenance in too many places: All, or most of which doe yet remaine in greatest part unremoved, by reason of your many necessitated diversions from this great
Worke, for the preservation of the very Being of this Kingdome. And, by meanes hereof, many distractions and disorders about matters of Religion and the Church have,
to the great scandal and grieve of the Petitioners, happened, and are still continued; which puts them upon a necessity of renewing their former suit for redresse of the aforesaid evils, and for removing what ever shall appeare to your Wisdome to be the roote and cause of them.

And whereas further the Petitioners and very many others (in whose name and behalfe they now humbly supplicate) desirous in all things to submit to the Lawes so far
as possibly they may, yet, meerly out of tendernesse and scruple of conscience, dare not continue (as formerly they did) the use and exercise of some things, as now they
stand enjoyned, not onely because they have more seriously weighed the nature and scandal of them, and that sundry Bishops, and other grave Divines, called to their af-
fiance, by Order of the House of Peeres, have (as they are informed) discovered divers particulars needing alteration in the Liturgy, and the use thereof; and that there is
not, as they humbly conceive, at this day commonly extant any Booke of Common-Prayer, without so many variations, alterations, and additions, as render it in many
parts another thing from that which was by Law established; but chiefly because you also have vouchsafed to be so far sensible of the defects thereof, and of the just scruples
of the Petitioners thereabout, as to take the reformation thereof under consideration, which they hoped would be some shelter against the strict pressing the use of it, till
your pleasure, upon the full debate thereof, had beeene declared in a Parliamentary way; for that it seemes most equall that the Consciences of men should not be forced upon
that which a Parlamenteit selfe holds needfull to consider the Reformation of, and to give Order in, till the same be accordingly done. And the Petitioners having been
comfortably assured of some easse therein, doe now, to their great sorrow, apprehend that the same things are anew reinforced, which (contrary to the blessed inclination
and intention of his most Gracious Majestie) may occasion much trouble and vexation to sundry worthy and peaceable Ministers: which the Petitioners have more cause to
feare, because sundry of their Brethren, have, since the beginning of this Parliament, beeene indicted upon the Stat. of 1. Eliz. 2. and others threatened for bare omissions of
some things complained of to this high Court, and still depending before you; whiles, in divers places, your Religious Orders necessarily made and published for remov-
ing of things illegall, are not observed; and, in other places, where some superstitious rites and practises had by vertue thereof, beeene laid aside, the same are againe called
backe and reopractised, without any check or animadverion.

And because the premisses are of extraordinary consequence, and cannot receive a perfect Cure but by authority of Parliament: and that a free Synod of this Nation, differ-
ing in the whole Constitution from the present Convocations of the Clergy now in use among us, might be (as the Petitioners apprehend) of great use for that purpose; and,
that not onely this, but all other your great Consultations might be much furthered by a more earnest and assiduous seeking of God by the joynit and publique Fasting and
Prayers of the whole Kingdome in these sad times so full of distractions and hellish Conspiracies at home, and bloody cruelties of those Popish Rebels against our owne flesh
and our bones in Ireland.

The Petitioners humbly pray that you would vouchsafe to lay hold upon the first opportunity, that your important affaires will permit, of reassuming into
your further consideration their former Petition, and to proceed thereupon as you shall finde cause, either by committing the same to the debate and disquisition of
a free Synod, or otherwise; And in the meane time to become Mediators to his gratiouse Majestie (who could not take notice of their former Petition to this honou-
rable House) for some relaxation in matters of Ceremonies, and of reading of the whole Liturgy, which, as the Petitioners verily beleue and hope to prove, have
beeene of late times urged further than ever the Law intended: and that a free Synod of Grave, Learned, and Judicious Divines of this Kingdome, the Dominion of Wales,
and the Islands adjacent, may be by authority of Parliament indicted, for the more through and fruitfull debate of the premisses, to expedite a full Reformation
by the high Court of Parliament, for the settling of a godly and religious Order and Government in this Church, as your Wisdome shall finde convenient: And
that a publique Fast may be commanded and religiously observed throughout the Kingdome, once in every moneth, during your sitting in Parliament, for the more
effectuall procuring of Gods protection of your persons, and of his blessing upon your proceedings; and till the miseries of our brethren in Ireland bee happily
put to an end.

And the Petitioners shall be ready further to attend the pleasure of this House with their reasons of their present suite for a free Synod of this Nation, and of a
new Constitution thereof differing from those now in being, when they shall be required; and, to pray without ceasing, &c.

This Petition was presented by the Ministers themselves, and afterwards read, and well accepted in the House, Decemb. 20. 1641.